

NSWC Crane Tests Unambiguous Warning Device

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Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane personnel traveled to Japan to test one of the fleet's newest force protection devices aboard the 7th Fleet flagship, USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19). NSWC Crane technical experts demonstrated the Unambiguous Warning Device (UWD), a cross between a 50-caliber gun mount and an aircraft flare device. The configuration actually is an airborne expendable countermeasures (AECM) flares-launcher.

The UWD system was designed to warn approaching small craft when they encroach a ship's out-of-bounds area (like its security perimeter), and accordingly advise them to immediately leave.

The idea for UWD came from a need for a more effective way for ships to warn away intruders. Signal pen flares are now used and in many cases, were misinterpreted by intruders as an invitation to come closer rather than a warning to stay away.

Through a joint integration effort between NSWC Crane, Naval Air Systems Command's

Program Manager for Advanced Tactical Aircraft Protection, and the Naval Ordnance Safety & Security Activity in Indian Head, Md., a prototype system was developed, tested and readied for delivery to *Blue Ridge* within 10 days of the initial request.

Crane personnel also trained *Blue Ridge* Sailors how to use the UWD. The UWD system was tested aboard *Blue Ridge* for a six-month trial period. ⚓



A closeup of the device shows the .50-caliber tripod and the dispenser block which holds the aircraft electronic countermeasures flare cartridges.

Duane Lagrange from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane, Ind., explains the unambiguous warning device to two USS *Blue Ridge* Sailors.